

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims is provided as a courtesy to the Examiner.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for simulating process flows in the graphics industry and for displaying the result calculated in the simulated process flows and/or intermediate results, comprising the steps of:

inputting or selecting at least one order data set representing a print job via a user interface of a computer;

selecting process data sets representing machines via a graphical user interface, the process data sets representing the machines being stored in a library, the print job determining minimum requirements to be met by a machine to be eligible as a process data set for a simulation and excluding machines that do not meet the requirements from the simulation;

distributing the at least one order data set among the selected process data sets;

calculating links between the order data set and the process data sets as a function of the order data set and the process data sets;

creating a process flow from the calculated links;

calculating results or intermediate results for the process flow using the order data set;

and

outputting the results or intermediate results on a display of the computer.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the calculating of the links between the order data set and the process data set includes an evaluation method, the evaluation method including making a query as to which process data set is capable of processing an input or selected order data set of the at least one process data set so as to define positively queried process data sets; writing the positively queried process data sets to a resource table; establishing a ranking of the positively queried process data sets as a function of the process flow data and the order data set; selecting the process data set with a highest ranking; and assigning the process data set with the highest ranking to the selected order data set.

Claim 3 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the calculating of the links between

order data set and process data set includes a further method, the further method including sequentially assigning one of the order data sets of the at least one order data sets to one or more of the process data sets; comparing the order data sets and assigned process data sets to each other; and in each case creating a best linkage as a function of the order data set.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the process data set contains performance specifications or operating costs of a device of the graphics industry needed for the process flow.

Claim 6 (original): The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the device is a printing press or a prepress device.

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein prior to inputting or selecting steps, access to the at least one order data set stored in a library is provided.

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the order data sets can be selected and called up from a library on a display device with the aid of a graphical user interface.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the process data sets contain dimensions associated with graphics industry devices or the dimensions associated with the devices are displayed on a display device.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A device for simulating process flows in the graphics industry and for displaying the result calculated in the simulated process flows or intermediate results on a display device, comprising:

at least one user interface for inputting or selecting at least one order data set representing a print job, the print job determining minimum requirements to be met by a machine to be eligible as a process data set for a simulation;

at least one graphical user interface for selecting process data sets representing machines;

at least one computer for excluding machines that do not meet the requirements of the print from the simulation and for distributing the at least one order data set among the selected process data sets and for calculating links between order data set and process data sets as a function of the order data set and the process data sets;

the computer for creating a process flow from the calculated links;

the computer for calculating the result or intermediate results for the process flow using the order data set; and

a display for displaying the results or intermediate results.